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FLOR DE DINDIGUL

CIGARETTES.

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

No. 1,033.—ONE PENNY. [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

LONDON, SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1901.

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SPECIAL
SUNDAY EDITION.

THE WAR.
BOERS ATTACK
BRITISH.

COLONIALS' MISHAP.

POSITION EVACUATED.

From Lord Kitchener to Secretary of War:

Prætoria, July 26 (8 p.m.)—Gen. Stephenson reports detachment of Steiner's Horse, occupying Bremerdorp, were forced to evacuate on the 24th inst. by a superior force of Boers, probably Amsterdam. Piet Retief's commando from south. The detachment fought their way to Lembolo—10 miles—losing about 10 killed and wounded and few missing.

(Bremerdorp is the chief town of Swaziland, and the British garrison there would probably be a small one, as the Boers have for the most part left the country undisturbed. Amsterdam and Piet Retief are two small towns in the Transvaal, lying east and south of Bremerdorp.)

A BOER COMMANDANT KILLED.

Johannesburg, July 24.—The Boer Commandant Spruit has been killed while endeavouring to cross the Heidelberg line.—Reuter.

LORD KITCHENER'S COMMAND.

INTERESTING RUMOUR.

In connection with the report on another page with reference to Lord Kitchener's command in South Africa, the "Standard's" correspondent at Cape Town forwards a report to the effect that Lord Kitchener will relinquish the chief command in South Africa at the end of August, and will proceed to England, where he will remain for five months, prior to taking over the supreme command in India. Sir Bindon Blood is expected to succeed him as Commander-in-Chief in South Africa.

PURSUIT OF VILJOEN.

BOERS OUT-MANOEUVRED.

According to the Standerton correspondent of the Central News, Commandant Viljoen has been considerably hustled since the beginning of the month by the British column. Acting on reliable information to the effect that the Boer leader intended removing to the low country from the high veldt, four columns under Gens. Benson and Beaton and Col. Spence and Parkes, turned out to intercept him.

Anticipating that Viljoen would attempt to cross the mountains by a pass near Dullstroom, Gen. Benson gained possession of the pass. An advanced party of the enemy were repelled with a hot fire and driven back.

BAULKED IN HIS ATTEMPT

To cross by this route, Viljoen turned into Sekukuni's country, but here the natives turned out fully armed, and assuming a threatening attitude, blocked his further progress. Viljoen (who had 600 men and two pom-poms) now made for a drift over Oliphant's River, where Gen. Benson forced another action. The Boers abandoned 16 wagons laden with supplies and escaped to Botha'sberg. They lost six killed and a number of wounded. The British had a few men slightly wounded. "The Standard" correspondent, in describing the operations, says our casualties were chiefly among the Scottish Horse.

THE BOER TREK INTO BECHUANALAND.

A Boer from the Waterburg district who had surrendered left Nylstroom, accompanied by his son-in-law, on July 2, passed through Beyers' lines, and pursued several other burghers to join him in a trek westward. As he progressed the number of his companions increased until they numbered 31. The men were accompanied by their wives and families and their wagons and stock, and eventually all were transferred across the Crocodile River into Bechuanaland. Similar movements (says "The Morning Post") Kimberley correspondent) have taken place for the past few months, and there are now 300 Boers, with their wives and belongings, settled on the west bank of the Crocodile River under a commandant and guarded by the Bechuanaland Police.

Lord Methuen is proceeding energetically and successfully with the clearing of the country, and a very hopeful feeling exists in this region. Trade with Bechuanaland and Rhodesia is being encouraged by the military authorities as far as the exigencies of the war allow.

BOTHA AND THE CAPE RAIDERS.

The portrait of Lord Welby, who was chairman of the L.C.C. for 1899-1900, will be unveiled in the library of the County Hall, Spring Gardens, on Tuesday. The portrait is by Sir Wm. Richmond, and its cost has been defrayed by subscription raised among the members of the Council.

is said, will assume the command of the Boer forces in the Transvaal.

PEACE RUMOURS.

A telegram from Amsterdam to Paris states that Mr. Kruger is suffering from profound depression, and is unable to receive Dr. Leyda.

The London correspondent of "The Yorkshire Post" says the air is full of rumours in diplomatic circles that Mr. Kruger has at this late hour accepted the inevitable, and is desirous of peace being arranged between England and the Boers. Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, has left London for Holland, and I am assured by one in high place that his services are being sought by the ex-President of Transvaal to act as mediator in bringing about a settlement. There will probably be more heard of this within the next three days.

GEN. BADEN-POWELL.

Maj.-gen. Baden-Powell's leave of absence (stated in the Central News) will extend over the next three months, and he returns to Africa on Oct. 27. LORD ROBERTS' GRANT.

Lord Roberts is one of Fortune's favourites. Another instance of the fact is to be found in the M.P. who has been selected to move on Wednesday next the rejection of the grant to him for his services in South Africa. The member in question is Mr. Labouchere, and no more happy election could have been made if the design were to make the opposition to the grant utterly ridiculous and contemptible. It is to be supposed, however, that no one of any standing in the Opposition could be found to undertake the task.

NEW NATAL RAILWAY OPENED.

Durban, July 26.—The south coast line of railway to Port Shepstone, 77 miles from here, was opened to-day. Sir H. McCallum, the Governor, who congratulated the district on its commercial prospects, remarked upon the noble part that the railway service had played during the war.—Reuter.

NO INTERVENTION BY THE KAISER.

The revived rumour of the German Emperor's intention to mediate or interfere in the South African War was emphatically contradicted in an inspired article in the "Norddeutsche" of yesterday. The article commutes, in a manner friendly to England, upon the numerous complaints in the German Press regarding the German prisoners of war and the reckless action of the British troops against Botha. Mr. Kruger refused to receive Mr. Menches, a member of the Volksraad, who has arrived from Pretoria. The rumour that he is going to Italy next month is (says "The Daily News") totally unfounded. In Transvaal circles generally the rumours concerning peace negotiations are denied.

THE hospital ship Dunera left Southampton yesterday for the Cape, with a full compliment of officers, nursing staff and hospital orderlies. She also took out a number of officers and men who will rejoin their respective regiments in S. Africa.

LATEST CASUALTIES.

DEATHS FROM WOUNDS, &c.

6th Guardsman Bushman: 328 Pte M. Gearney, gunshot wound, Verwoerden, July 25.

Co. Royal Engineers: 3268 Spr. A. Freemantle, gunshot wound, Wickham, July 26.

R.A.M.C.: 4369 Pte Jno King, dysentery, Howick, July 25. Lt. Welsh Regt.: 803 Pte Wm. Gliddings, disease unknown, Johannesburg, July 25. Royal Engineers: 1000 Pte Jno. G. Smith, Vicksburg, July 25. 1st Welsh Regt.: 3704 Corp. T. Rast, killed, Vicksburg, near Christians, July 25. 1200 Pte T. John, wounded, since dead, Vicksburg, near Christians, July 25.

WOUNDED AND BRAVE.

The Earl of Hopetoun has received the following reply from the Duke of Cornwall to a telegram expressing the Commonwealth's farewell to T.H.H.:

"Our heartfelt thanks for the people's farewell. Having been permitted to open in the King's name the first Federal Parliament will be an abiding source of satisfaction to me.

In my last words before quitting these shores I wish to renew the assurances of warmest gratitude for the loyal affection extended to us during the happy and eventful months which we have spent in the various States. May every possible blessing be bestowed upon the people." Sir J. Madden sent a telegram to the Duke expressing Victoria's farewell, and received a message of thanks from H.R.H.

VESSELS TO ESCORT THE OPHIR HOME.

It was officially announced at Portsmouth yesterday that the Niobe and Diadem will be detached from the Channel Squadron immediately the manoeuvres are ended, and sent to St. Vincent, where they will meet the Ophir on her homeward passage, and escort the royal yacht to Portsmouth, superseding the St. George and June, her present escort.

INQUIRIES AT PORTSMOUTH.

Inquiries made in Portsmouth show that the young man and woman in custody in connection with the murder were in Portsmouth until the morning of the tragedy. They then left for London, without saying anything as to the object of their journey. Both lived with their widowed mother in Lake-nd. Portsmouth, where the man had assisted his parent to carry on a leather-seller's and bootmaker's business during the past few months.

Prior to that he had a bootshop in Brighton, but before settling there he spent some years wandering in the Australian Bush and in S. America, where he is noted as a cowboy. His mother is a widow of a naval man, and has one other son living at home with her.

Accused's mother knew nothing of the tragedy until she read of her son and daughter's arrest in the paper. She had expected them to book on Friday night, and wondered why they did not come.

PARIS FORTIFICATIONS.

Paris, July 27.—"The Petit Journal" states that the long-standing dispute between the French Government and the municipality of Paris over the land occupied by the fortifications, has now been terminated on an arrangement whereby the land is to be made level and a boulevard constructed at a cost of 50,000,000 francs, with certain reservations for public buildings, the land remaining the property of the State.—Dakiel.

THE POPULATION OF GIBRALTAR.

Gibraltar, July 27.—The official return of the census of Gibraltar have been published, and show that the total population on March 31 was 37,490. This number is composed as follows:—Civilians, 30,355; military, 8,675; port and harbour, 650. There is an increase of 1,705 over the census total of 1891.—Reuter.

L.C.C. AND LORD WELBY.

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"WAITING TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY."

Although M. Santos-Dumont has proved that aerial navigation is possible, he has not yet succeeded in winning the airship prize of £4,000 offered by M. Henri Deutsch. The conditions of the prize are that the aeronaut must start from the balloon park on the hill above Suresnes, travel round the Eiffel Tower and return to the starting point, accomplishing the journey in thirty minutes. M. Santos-Dumont once partially accomplished the feat, but it seems he can do nothing in stormy weather, and, according to the latest news from Paris, "he will now wait," he says, "before ever thinking of it, until the barometer is set fair."



JOHN BULL: Now, then, stop blowing bubbles, cut your cables, and make a dash for the Prize; you can surely work that Aerial Party of yours round the Parliamentary tower without coming to grief.

LODGE: I'm waiting till the clouds roll by; it must be "set fair" before I try it on again.

[Drawn Specially for "The People" by HARRY FURNISS.]

STOKE NEWINGTON CRIME.

LATEST PARTICULARS.

Full details of the shooting crime which was enacted at Stoke Newington on Friday will be found on page 12. Last night there was still intense excitement in the neighbourhood over the tragedy. After the evidence given at the police court and other facts which have since come to light, the opinion is gaining ground that the unhappy brother and sister.

Ralph and Caroline Dyer are the victims of a series of hallucinations.

The letters which were handed in to the court when Insp. Martin gave evidence, but which were not read, are said to go a long way in support of this theory. There is apparently no doubt that the girl is under the impression that she is under the care of the Duke of Buckingham Palace.

SAVAGED AND OUTRAGED,

but by whom is not at present clear.

The letters of the brother and sister were written before they left Portsmouth on Friday, and they entirely explain the position of affairs.

They will not, however, be made public until the inquest, as until the next hearing at the police court, although the prisoners themselves are most anxious that their version shall be made known.

Miss Dyer was examined by Dr. Duran, the divisional surgeon, yesterday, but the conclusion he has arrived at in regard to her mental condition has not been allowed to transpire.

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THE PROGRESS OF N.S.W.

Sydney, July 27.—Regarding the financial condition of New South Wales, Mr. Jno See, the Premier, states that the return of the last year's receipts and expenditure show an improvement on the line with regard to the financial position of the colony. The year ended June 30 opened with a deficit of £24,000. In that year provision had to be made for the extra expenditure of £26,000, in addition to some small annualities of from £22 to £25. There is no appeal from this decision.—Dakiel.

"ALMOST UNPARALLELED ATROCITIES."

At Liverpool Assizes, yesterday, Jno. Ingham Mason, collier, of W. Houghton-on-Somer, near Bolton, was sentenced to 14 years' penal servitude for attempting to murder his sister-in-law, Mrs. Hesketh, after improperly assaulting her.

Prisoner attacked her with a poker, broke her arm, kicked her unmercifully, and cut her body with a table-knife. He afterwards brutally attacked another woman.—Justice Ridley described prisoner's acts as almost unparalleled atrocities.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

Jno. Patrick and Geo. Tyldesley were killed by lightning near Hattersley, and eight other persons badly injured during a thunderstorm on Friday night. About a dozen persons sheltered in a shed, when the lightning struck it and knocked the shelter into a heap. The deceased's clothes were singed and their boots torn.

CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED TRAIN WRECKING.

At Chester Assizes, yesterday, Jas. Minshall, signaller, charged with placing an obstruction on the railway at Minshill Vernon, near Crewe, was found guilty of placing an obstruction on the line with intent to injure. The defence contended that he was not guilty of the more serious offence of intent to endanger travellers. There was a further indictment against accused for misdemeanour, and Mr. Marshall, Q.C., said that the prosecution would proceed with that count. Accused was accordingly put back.

SLIPPED OFF A TRAM CAR.

Mr. Schroder held an inquest, yesterday, on Walter F. Baaka, 51, compositor of Greenwood-road, S. Tottenham. The evidence of Eliza Banks, a sister, showed that on Wednesday while boarding a N.M. tram-car from Finchley Park to Holborn, deceased slipped on the platform and fell, his head and shoulder striking against the hind leg of a horse and tore part of a harness off his body. He was taken to the Royal Free Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a scalp wound and internal injuries, which eventually caused death.

The band of the Scots Guards will play in Green Park this evening between six and eight o'clock.

HYDE PARK MYSTERY.

TRIAL AT THE OLD BAILEY YESTERDAY.

VERDICT AND SENTENCE.

At the Old Bailey, yesterday, before Justice Willis, Theos. Kennedy, 22, a private of the Irish Guards, was indicted for wounding Harry Brewster, a P.C., in the execution of his duty.

Mr. Muir, for the prosecution, said prosecutor was a young P.C. who, on the night of June 17, was on night duty in Hyde Park. P.C. Stronger was on duty with P.C. Brewster on the night in question.

About 11.45 Stronger saw a soldier and a girl sitting on the chairs near to the revolver. Brewster did not come off duty at the usual time, and in consequence a search was made, and he was discovered lying insensible off his chair. Inquiry was made at the various barracks with the view of ascertaining who Guards were on duty.

Prisoner belonged to the Irish Guards stationed at Chelsea Barracks, and with another private in the company, whose name was Evans. Evans was arrested, and questioned with regard to their movements on the night in question.

Both were eventually arrested. The charge against Evans was dismissed, and he was called as a witness against Kennedy.

Evans accused Kennedy of being the assailant of the constable, who had spoken to them whilst they were with the girl. After the committed Kennedy had

WARTER A LETTER.

to the Commissioner of Police in which he stated that as Evans had thrown all the blame upon him, he thought it right to say that Evans came into his hands after the first blow had been struck, changed his coat, and struck the officer with his belt.

The girl who was in company of

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]
WOMAN:
THE SPHINX.
By FERGUS HUME.
AUTHOR OF "THE MYSTERY OF A MANSION-
CAR," "A TRAITOR IN LONDON," &c.

CHAPTER V.

LORD ARDEN.

On that same evening a party of four people visited the Piccadilly Theatre, alias the Booth of Satan. Sir Bernard refused to go, having no relish for the stage, which he declared had deteriorated beyond measure since the days of Macready and Helen Faunt; so Aunt Jael played dragon for the evening, and, with her charge, was escorted by the two young men. Barbara appeared as usual in the grey chiffon costume—her one smart dress, poor child—and looked more than ever like a rosy-cheeked rustic maid; even the extreme plainness of her dress could not detract from her dewy peach-like beauty. Indeed, the absence of fashionable furbelows and modern jewellery enhanced her prettiness. It was emphatically beauty unadorned, and Sulway, jaded and blazed, was charmed afresh by this picture of pastoral simplicity. No shepherdess of Troisac thus but a childlike Be-poor fresh from Nantucket-land.

Aunt Jael, as the dragon, wore a black moiré antique, short in the waist and skirt, a Chinese crepe shawl, and a wonderful cap, composed like Joseph's coat, of many colours. Also she carried her reticule from which she never parted, and, clinging to it as she did, Anthony wondered if she carried her soul therein. "Or perhaps her heart," he speculated, "if a dragon can possess such an organ."

When they were in the comfortable box which Densham had secured—and paid for, in spite of his representation to Sir Bernard—the country mouse expressed herself charmed with the brilliant scene. The house was crowded, and the stalls were filled with the best dressed and most fashionable people in London. Medusa—the irreverent barrister styled his majestic aunt—also expressed herself gratified. Indeed she so far unbent as to produce a large silver box and refresh herself with a pinch of snuff. Sulway, who had never seen a modern lady indulge in this way, stared aghast at the spectacle; and fell under the gaze of Aunt Jael's severe eye. He felt like a whipped school-boy.

"Did you know your great-grandmother, Mr. Anthony Sulway?" said Miss Drail, restoring the silver box to her reticule.

"No," said he, rather startled by the irrelevance of the question. "She died before I was born."

"She took snuff, sir!"

"Oh, really, Miss Drail, I don't know."

"I do," snapped the gentle Jael, cutting him short, "all highly-bred gentlewomen of those days took snuff. I take it now; have you any reason to advance why I should not?"

Sulway hastily disclaimed any such intention.

"Because if you have, sir, I should like to hear it. I don't know if anything is worse than smoking cigarettes, as the mixtures of to-day do. I like snuff—Prince Regent's mixture, and I take snuff—out of my grandmother's box, so there is no more to be said. What is the matter, Barbara Vane?"

This question was asked sharply, as Barbara started and looked eagerly down into the stalls.

"Lord Arden is in the theatre," she exclaimed hurriedly.

"I see the fool," said Miss Drail, bringing her glasses to bear on a pink and white young man who was bowing to her nose; "don't beckon him up here, Barbara Vane, the play is as much as I can bear in one night."

"Who is Lord Arden?" asked Sulway, a trifle jealous of the interest displayed in the newcomer, especially by Bo-peep, whose pink cheeks were pinker than ever.

"A fool," replied Aunt Jael calmly, "also a neighbour of ours, though he doesn't give Apple Tree Town much of his company, thank goodness."

"Arden is a very good fellow and clever," exulted Densham.

"All geese are swans with you," retorted his aunt crushingly; "hold your tongue, all of you, and listen to the music. Weber is the composer, I see," referring to her programme—for Densham had supplied these in spite of the newspaper cutting. "Weber I suppose you call him, such affectionate!"

There was no doubt that Aunt Jael was a very terrible old lady, who should not have been brought to London to trample on the feelings of civilised people. She was extremely randy and extremely rude, and supremely indifferent to the feelings of those she favoured with her conversation. Anthony had not believed that such a character could have existed outside a novel, but Aunt Jael existed, and she let everyone know it. A hard stubborn fact there was no getting over; that was what Miss Drail was. The inmates of the box were thankful and relieved when she concentrated her Medusa glare on the stage.

Fortunately there was nothing to offend her prejudices in the first act of the play. It was a teacup-and-saucer comedy of the Robertson school, containing little plot, but a great deal of charming dialogue. Much of the chatter was flavoured with the slang of polite society, and consequently was high Dutch to the understanding of an antiquated lady like Miss Drail. She sniffed disapproval of the leading lady's acting, although the part she played—that of a coquettish widow—was acted by her in a very dainty and delightful style. When the curtain fell on the first act, and Barbara ventured to express her pleasure at the talents of the actress, Aunt Jael crushed her at once.

"She is a max," said Miss Drail tartly, "no decent woman would have."

"But what she is doing and saying is part of the play," remonstrated Barbara.

"Then she shouldn't take part in such a play, Barbara Vane."

"It is a very innocent play," said Densham.

"Bliss me, would I be sitting here if it was not?" snipped Miss Drail. "What is that knocking at the door?"

"Lord Arden," said the barrister, opening the door. "Come in, Arden; say you in the stalls."

The pink and white young man entered in a joyous manner. He shook

hands with Barbara, bowed to Aunt Jael, in whose presence he appeared nervous—an impression the good lady produced on all people—and was introduced to Sulway. Then he sat down and talked in an agreeable but slangy manner.

"Was awfully frozen when I saw you lookin' out of th' box," said his lordship, who had a habit of clipping his words, "but was certain it was you. What d'ye think of the play, Miss Vane? Saucy, ain't it?"

"I am delighted with it, Lord Arden, but you must remember it is my first and only play. I am not able to compare it with others."

"You must do all the theatres while you're in town," rattled on Arden. "There's a rippin' ballet at th' Empire."

"Ballet," groaned Aunt Jael, "you are offensive, Lord Arden."

"Awfully sorry, didn't mean any harm. Th'-th'-ballet's quite decent, Miss Drail."

"It is more than you are, Lord Arden, or you would not refer to it as a low and sinful entertainment. Continue your conversation," added Miss Drail, waving her mittened hand. "But let it be respectable."

"Tell about the weather," suggested Sulway, who found it difficult not to laugh outright at the expression on Arden's face. "Safe subject the weather."

"Dull," said Densham, "very dull."

"What the weather," cried Barbara with twinkling eyes, "when we have had nothing but sunshines. What nonsense, George."

Aunt Jael muttered, "Great nonsense the whole conversation," but said nothing more, so Barbara turned to address Arden.

"Have you read Mr. Sulway's book?" she asked.

"Should think so, rather. Awfully jolly those hoytarnas, Mr. Sulway. I'm goin' to do some big game shootin' myself this year, in th' Rockies y' know. No end of a place th' Rockies."

"I thought you were going in for politics, Arden," said the barrister.

"Oh, yes," said Lord Arden, coolly. "A few facts, a trifles of imagination, and a lot of cheek. That's what's wanted to succeed."

"Then I hope to see you Prime Minister some day," said the old lady.

"Depends on th' length of your life," retorted Arden, who found Aunt Jael trying. "How is your brother, Miss Drail?"

"He is in excellent health, thanks to his sober and industrious life," said Miss Drail, sputteringly.

"Oh, I'll be sober an' industrious when I'm too old for fun," replied Arden. Then aside to Densham. "She's worse than ever."

"There is the music for the second act," said Barbara, brightly.

"Must go, then," said Arden, rising. "Oh, by th' way, Miss Drail, would you come to supper at th' Jael?"

"Alone?" questioned Aunt Jael, in a blood-curdling tone.

"Oh, Lord no," cried Arden, so anxiously that the others laughed outright, "with Miss Vane and Densham and Mr. Sulway, if he will so far let me."

"I deserve it, no doubt."

"You do," replied Densham emphatically. "Here, drink this, and string up your nerves for rebuke and admonition."

"But I may do something to make you pleasant, Miss Drail. Would you like tickets for Exeter Hall?"

"No, I thank you."

"Madame Tussaud's, then; you'd enjoy the Chamber of Horrors."

"No, I thank you."

"The Big Wheel at the Earl's Court Exhibition. What you won't! It is a case of 'Timeo Danos et non forfite' I see."

"No ribald talk in a foreign tongue, Lord Arden. Go back to your stall, sir."

"Just as though I were a hally or," groaned Arden; then seeing that his well-meant efforts to please only resulted in failure, the young man left the box just as the second act began.

Pleased by his discomfiture Aunt Jael rewarded herself with another pinch of snuff. She was really a very terrible old person.

The remaining two acts of "The Pretty Widow" were tolerated by Aunt Jael, as they were too innocent to fault with. Certainly she was uneasy at the love-making between the widow and her elderly admirer, and mettled and extremely rude, and supremely indifferent to the feelings of those she favoured with her conversation. Anthony had not believed that such a character could have existed outside a novel, but Aunt Jael existed, and she let everyone know it. A hard stubborn fact there was no getting over; that was what Miss Drail was. The inmates of the box were thankful and relieved when she concentrated her Medusa glare on the stage.

Oh, thank you so much, George," said Barbara, when the performance was over, and they were waiting for the brougham. "I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed myself."

"Small matters amuse small minds," muttered the amiable Jael, "get into the carriage, Barbara Vane; you should have been in bed long ago."

"Wait one minute, aunt. Good-bye, George, and thank you again. Good-bye, Mr. Sulway, do not forget to come to Apple Tree Town."

"No, don't," said Miss Drail, putting her green face out of the window. "Agnes Jerome may reform you."

"I should be delighted to be reformed by so beautiful a woman," said Jael, blushing the audacious.

"Libertines!" snapped Aunt Jael.

"Good-night, George Densham, and go home to bed. It is not proper that you should be wandering about the streets at midnight. Be not one of those who 'grin like a dog and run about the city,'" and Miss Drail, disagreeably to the end, drove away triumphant at having scouted the last word.

The two young men were left standing on the crowded pavement, laughing immoderately at the sounf of the old spinster.

"Isn't she an old cat?" said the barrister, "I should like to sink her in the Atlantic for ten minutes."

"Humph! if you did so, would it be well to have discarded Smith v.

called murder?" said Sulway, smiling. "She is certainly a character, a cross between Miss Sally Brass and Miss Betty Trotwood. Amusing though."

"Ardon didn't seem to think so."

"My name," said a gay voice behind them. "Who is taking it in vain. Densham! Mr. Sulway! I was just lookin' for you. Come and sup at th' Jael. Now the old cat's away the mice may play."

The two men accepted this invitation with avidity, for after the first society of Aunt Jael they felt that they required food and wine to restore them. Now that the dragon had departed they breathed more freely and talked as they pleased; it was as though a weight had been lifted off their minds.

"You must do all the theatres while you're in town," rattled on Arden. "There's a rippin' ballet at th' Empire."

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"Should think so, rather. Awfully jolly those hoytarnas, Mr. Sulway. I'm goin' to do some big game shootin' myself this year, in th' Rockies y' know. No end of a place th' Rockies."

"I thought you were going in for politics, Arden," said the barrister.

"Oh, yes," said Lord Arden, coolly. "A few facts, a trifles of imagination, and a lot of cheek. That's what's wanted to succeed."

"Tell about the weather," suggested Sulway, who found it difficult not to laugh outright at the expression on Arden's face. "Safe subject the weather."

"Dull," said Densham, "very dull."

"What the weather," cried Barbara with twinkling eyes, "when we have had nothing but sunshines. What nonsense, George."

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE CONDUCTOR.

The spirit of holiday is abroad. The preparations of the railway companies to meet it seem to be on a more extensive scale than ever. America is still suffering from abnormal heat and Austria from great floods. In comparison with her continental neighbours generally Great Britain has been so far favoured with a fairly temperate summer. With the close of the London season come congresses and other meetings of scientific and social reformers. The bishops and other lights of the Church have in hand a Public House Trust, which is a practical protest against such tectonic fanatics as Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and a tacit admission that the wild notion of abolishing the liquor traffic is the utter and complete failure it deserves to be. The most important and not the least interesting of the congresses of learned men is that which has set itself to the task of doing battle with the scourge of consumption, one of the most insidious diseases that can afflict humanity.

"No war that ever was waged brought with it anything like the burden and misfortune which tuberculosis from time immemorial has carried with it to every land," said Lord Lansdowne at the opening of the congress at St. James's Hall. Happily, medical science enables us to regard the disease as no longer inevitable. One of the most satisfactory announcements was made by Sir William Broadbent that £10,000 is already subscribed for the proposed sanatorium. A great initial fact is established; thanks to the researches of Dr. Koch, medical science now knows the enemy it has to fight; and it is believed that we almost know exactly how to fight it to a finish.

The death of Mrs. Kruger emphasises the selfishness of her husband. The man who, in its direst need, deserts his country can hardly be expected to have much compunction in leaving his wife to the tender mercies of the enemy. But in spite of the villainous things he permitted his entourage to publish about us Mr. Kruger knew the English well enough to trust them with his wife. We will do him the justice to believe that he did consider her safety and comfort to that extent. Solemnly swearing to fight to the last.



MISS MARY KRUGER.

with his burghers to the last, he quietly lays hands upon the Government treasury, annexes every penny he can command in other directions, and slips out of the country, leaving for his wife the conciliation of a biblical text bidding her to trust in the Lord and all would be well. Without a murmur she obeyed his behest. The burghers who had trusted Mr. Kruger just as much as they had trusted the Lord, when they found the President had duped them and deviated with the money of the State, reviled his wife and all his belongings. Nevertheless the ex-President still exercises a strong and remarkable control over Botha, De Wet, and other Boer generals.

Lord Roberts and Tommy Atkins showed the old lady every kindness and consideration. The Presidency was guarded and protected from photographers, the noise of carriages and every possible thing that might distract Mrs. Kruger; and she expressed in her simple way her appreciation of these attentions by sending out from her kitchen dainty dishes for her Tommy sentinels. Mrs. Kruger had no ambition higher than to be a faithful wife and good housekeeper to Paul Kruger, her husband, and she was all that to the last, believing that he had simply gone to Europe for the "six months leave" he spoke of, in order to arrange the terms of European intervention. He must have pretty well known that he would never go back.

Much maudlin sympathy has been wasted over Mr. Kruger's bereavement. Certain of his Continental organs command the occasion as one which the Boers should dedicate to renewed vigour in the field. Another, which professes to be in the confidence of the exiled Saint, says he now hates England more than ever. One can feel an unfeigned sorrow for the deserted wife and for her unhappy offspring, and the women and children of the Krugers who have lost their lives in a war of overweening ambition. If Saint Kruger had been content to be the President of a Republic fulfilling its obligations to the Soverain who gave him power, and to the people who made him rich, he might have died, if not honoured, at least respected; but the frog would be a bull, and this is not the age of miracles.

THE ACTOR.

Immediately after the announcement that Mr. Tree's next original production is to be a play by Mr. Clyde Fitch, comes another to the effect that Mr. Alexander has also purchased the rights of a play from the pen of the same fertile author. Time was when it looked as if Mr. Fitch was going to be a failure. His "Pamela's Prodigy" was by no means a great success in London, and even "The Cowboy and the Lady," though an improvement on its predecessor, was "no great shakes." Nevertheless, at the present moment Mr. Fitch's work is in great demand both here and in America.

Every day the English and American stages become more closely associated. American managers are among the best customers that English playwrights possess. They have shown enterprise where English managers hesitated. Mr. H. V. Esmond, for example, has had plays produced in America for which English theatre-goers look in vain. Soon, however, we are to have at the Comedy his piece called "When We Were Twenty-one," which appears to have been very popular "on the other side," and, moreover, to have thoroughly deserved the good fortune that has attended it.

It is pleasant to reflect upon the universal applause with which Mr.

Pool's presentation of the old morality play "Every Man," has been received. He has been enabled to give three performances of it in London, and hopes to be able to submit it to audiences in different parts of the country. It is done in excellent taste, and has all the effect of a religious function. It is a moral lesson in action. Mr. Pool has persisted in his revival of old dramas in the face of great discouragement, and one is glad to hear of his "striking oil."

I am officially informed that in Mr. Carton's new play at The Criterion, his wife (Miss Compton) "will essay a different type of character from any in which she has been seen in recent years." This is interesting, but I am not sure that I find it altogether pleasing. Personally, I don't want Miss Compton to change her delightful method in any way. It is admirably suited to the class of parts in which she has given so much pleasure to the public—Lady Algy, and so forth. Why not let well alone?

So the good old Surrey is to become a purveyor of two "shows" per night. Are we to take this as another sign of the gradual extinction of the melodrama? I think not. The fact is, that whereas some years ago the provinces were supplied direct from the Surrey, the Princess's, the Adelphi, and Drury Lane, they are now growing their own theatrical food. The "country" is now the birthplace of dozens of melodramas, which, in due course come up to town, thus reversing, and with very great success, the time-honoured process.

"Piper Pan" will perhaps permit me to express the pleasure with which I hear that the music of the next piece at Daly's is to be wholly from the pen of Mr. Lionel Monckton. My first acquaintance with Mr. Monckton's work in this line was made at Oxford when the "Varsity Dramatic Club produced "Julius Caesar" (with Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Mr. H. B. Irving in the cast). Mr. Monckton, who was then known as "Leslie Mayne," had written the incidental music for the production. After that he began to write for the London theatres, with the result which we now see.

PIPER PAN.

British composers will be well represented at the forthcoming Gloucester Musical Festival, which takes place on Sept. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. The scheme includes new works by Mr. Luard Selby, Mr. John West, Dr. C. H. Lloyd, and Mr. Coleridge Taylor; four novelties from the pens of Sir J. F. Bridge, Mr. W. H. Bell, Dr. F. H. Cowen, and Mr. Arthur Hervey, and orchestral and choral compositions by Dr. Elgar, Mr. Lee Williams, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Hubert Parry, Dr. Villiers Stanford, and the popular conductor of the festival, Mr. Herbert A. Brewer. Composers of the past whose names figure in the programme are Schubert, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Spohr, Cherubini, Handel, Beethoven, and Verdi. It is rather surprising that not a single selection has been made from the late Sir Arthur Sullivan's works.

Besides the full rehearsal on the day previous to the festival, Mr. Brewer arranged that the three choirs should have several complete choral and combined rehearsals. The first has already taken place, the Hereford and Worcester choirs being brought specially to Gloucester. After practising for some hours the performers were regaled with tea, and then went to work again working altogether for about five hours. The principal vocalists for the festival are Messdames Albiani, Elia Russell, Sobrino, Hilda Wilson, Ada Crossley, Muriel Foster, Meesma, Ben Davies, W. Green, A. Black, Plunkett Greene, and Lane Wilson.

One of the most interesting exhibits at Burlington House next summer will probably be a bust in marble of M. Paderewski. During the great pianist's recent visit to London he gave several sittings to Mr. Onslow Ford, who hoped to complete the work in time for the Coronation year Royal Academy.

Prodigies instrumentalists are numerous, but infant vocalists with exceptional talent are rare, two noticeable instances being Madame Adelina Patti, who sang in public at the age of six, and Madame Ross Hersee (so often described as the "English Patti") many years ago, who made her debut when ten years old, and remained a popular favourite for more than thirty years.

It is therefore not surprising that much interest has been excited by the advent of little Gwendoline Brodgen, a little girl of eleven years old, who owns a voice of wonderful power and sweetness, which she uses with all the art of a well-trained singer. She has been singing in public for several years, but now, by the advice of Signor Tosti, her juvenile career is over, and she will be sent abroad to be educated until the right time arrives for the cultivation of her undoubted vocal gifts.

Mr. Santley's first wife was Miss Gertrude Kemble, who the veteran baritone met at a dinner party just before she made her debut, and on the night of his first appearance at the Crystal Palace in 1857. The two young artists appeared mutually attracted on the occasion, and none of those who had been present were surprised at the marriage, which took place eighteen months later. Mrs. Santley died in 1882 and some time after Mr. Santley married again.

The arrangements for the Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall next month are practically the same as last year. They will commence on Saturday, Aug. 24, with a popular programme. Mr. Payne will lead the violin and Mr. Wood will conduct. Smoking will be allowed in several parts of the hall, but portions of the building will be reserved for non-smokers.

At the students' concert of the Hampstead Conservatoire last week a remarkably clever little violinist made a great success in the person of Miss Sybil Keymer, a juvenile prodigy whose playing promises a famous future for her. The child only used an instrument of half-size, and yet brought out fine tone in two movements from the Mendelssohn concert, and her command of technique was quite surprising.

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OLD IZAAK.

A few good fish have been landed from the Thames during the week. At Chertsey, Mr. Worth (with H. Vickery) has taken a 5lb. 10oz. chub; Mr. G. Butcher at Walton, a roach of just under 2lb.; and Mr. D. Wilson, of Chertsey, a chub of 2lb., in addition to a nice basket of roach, the largest scaling 1lb. The best catch at Kingston was that of Messrs. Yates and Turrall (piloted by John Knight), who landed 30 barbel, three bream, and about one dozen roach, nearly all of which they considerably put back. Chub and roach have been caught during the mornings and evenings at Hampton Court. The rain will greatly assist the river, but much more is wanted yet.

There is little to report of the Lee. From Grove Ferry, I hear that the weeds have been cut in the Stour, and the river is in excellent condition. Capital sport is being had among the roach, and the river is largely patronised in consequence.

The Lark at Mildenhall fully sustains its good reputation, and Messrs. J. Butt and F. Marsh took 32lb. of roach there a few days since, in the course of four hours' fishing. Several scaled over 1lb. each, and the two best were supplied direct from the Surrey, the Princess's, the Adelphi, and Drury Lane; they are now growing their own theatrical food. The "country" is now the birthplace of dozens of melodramas, which, in due course come up to town, thus reversing, and with very great success, the time-honoured process.

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Some capital takes of fish were had during the week from the Huntingdon Society's waters, and a bream of over 2lb. and a perch of 1lb. (the latter taken by Mr. Dawson) have been among those landed. A rudd of 2lb. 8oz. was caught by Mr. Priborrough, who has already weighed in two others scaling 1lb. 10oz. and 1lb. 8oz. respectively. The rain must greatly improve the fishing in this quarter, and good takes may be reasonably anticipated at St. Ives and St. Neots.

Several members of the Great Northern Brothers fished in the Clerkenwell and district clubs' competition held on Sunday last, at Woking, and a goodly show of fish graced the tables of the Robin Hood at night. Messrs. J. Arkill, F. Brooks, and T. Worth were prize-winners. Mr. Hewitt displayed a good catch of carp, his best fish scaling nearly 4lb.

Nearly 200 anglers took part in the South London visiting list competition at Yalding, on Sunday last, at which Mr. W. J. Wade (president), Mr. A. E. Smith (hon. sec.), Messrs. J. J. Smith, T. Gibbs, J. Wheathouse, G. W. Roberts, and others assisted. In spite of the intense heat and unfavourable conditions, 47 competitors weighed in, and the 21 prizes were all taken. The blue riband fell to Mr. W. Fordham (United Brothers), with 7lb. 6oz.; Messrs. J. Groves, R. Green, and J. Bedford coming next in order, each bringing in between 5lb. and 6lb. of fish. The prizes will be distributed at the Woolpack, Bermondsey-st, S.E., on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Two fine perch, scaling 6lb. 10oz. together (largest 3lb. 10oz.), were lately taken by Mr. George Mole, of Birmingham, baiting with a minnow in the Severn at Kempsay. Twelve bream, scaling 23lb. together, have also been caught with a worm on roach tackle in Shakespeare's Avon. The Birmingham Anglers' Benevolent Society lately held their competition in the canal at Four Ashes, near Wolverhampton, which was attended by considerably over 1,000 persons. The result was disappointing, for hundreds of unsizable fish were taken and put back, and 16oz. secured the first prize, which was won by Mr. Lewis, of the Travellers' Rest. In all other respects the outing was a great success.

By the death of Mr. R. Ghurney, or Dick Ghurney, as he was familiarly called, London anglers lose one of their oldest and most zealous workers, who long since earned the respect of all. As secretary of the Hoxton Brothers, he was among the first to assist in obtaining railway privileges for metropolitan anglers, which, until 1872, had only been enjoyed by a few provincial clubs. In his early days, most anglers walked to their fishing quarters, chief among which were the various fisheries on the Lee, and the deceased (born in 1822) claimed to remember salmon in that river.

It was to develop and extend the railway concessions, and preserve the Lee, that the "London Anglers' Central Committee" was formed, with Mr. Ghurney as secretary and the late Sam Morgan president; the latter being succeeded by Mr. C. A. Medcalf, now the honoured head of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs. This committee or association (for such it was) was for some time the only organised body of London anglers, but afterwards joined its rival, the "West Central" (started later), thus forming a new body, with Mr. Ghurney as secretary, under the name of the Anglers' Association. He was also secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, which praiseworthy and flourishing institution (the pride of all club anglers) he largely assisted to found. Old age chiefly brought about his retirement from both these offices, not so very long since, and with his death closes an important chapter of London angling history.

One of the most skilful bits of angling on record, was recently performed by Mr. Glass, of the Walham Green Angling Society. Mr. Glass, using a 20ft. roach pole, tight line, medium gut cast, and No. 7 hook, caught a small rudd, and was drawing it over a patch of weeds, when it was seized by a pike of 11lb., which fought well, and took a quarter of an hour to land. One of the Blenheim Anglers, fishing close by, helped to get him into the net. I hear the angler thought more of his roach pole than of the pike, and, looking at the fish, used a word stronger than any in the Communion service at the mischief done to it. Yet he was the victor, and may well be proud of his achievement.

The tides will favour the Bank Holiday anglers, for the best fishing is usually to be had morning and evening. It will be high water at London Bridge on Monday, Aug. 5, at 4b. 50m. a.m., and 5b. 10m. p.m.; later in the Thames at Teddington, and earlier at many of the principal resorts on the

East and South Coast. Bass, mullet, pollack, and pout are among the sea fishes to be taken now, and smelt, dabs, plaice, and sole, also offer the angler sport.

WILL WORKMAN.

The judgment of the House of Lords delivered last Monday in the case arising out of the recent dispute on the Taff Vale Ry. is, in my opinion, one of the very highest importance, as affecting not only the operations of trades unions, but the trade of the country generally. It will be remembered that the railway company brought an action against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, which has over 65,000 members and over £250,000 funds, to stop the general secretary, organising secretary, and the other officials from doing certain things which were described as wrongful and illegal.

One of the judges held that the society was responsible for the acts of its executive officers, and granted the injunction asked for. The Court of Appeal set aside the judgment on the ground that a trade union was not a corporation, and could not be sued in its registered name. The railway company carried the case to the House of Lords, which has unanimously reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal, and restored that of Mr. Justice Farwell, and, as far as I can see, the House of Lords has done just what it ought to have done.

As the Lord Chancellor said, "When the Legislature created a thing" (as it did when, by the Trade Union Act of 1871 and 1876, it legalised trade unions) "which can hold property, which can employ servants, and which can inflict injury" (and which, he might have added, can do a lot of good) "it must be taken to have implied given power to make it susable in a court of law for injuries purely done by its authority."

And now it has been finally settled that a trade union can be sued and made to pay, it follows, as a matter of course, that a federation of employers can be sued in exactly the same way, and, if so, the decision, instead of being as some of the papers call it "a blow to trade unions" is one of the best things that could have happened to them—and not only to them, but to the country at large and I will tell you why. So long as a trade union could not be sued and an employer's federation could not be sued, it was impossible to have compulsory arbitration.

I will try and explain what I mean. Suppose there was a great strike of railway servants in this country, as the law stands at present, the Board of Trade could, at the request of both the master and the railway companies, send down an arbitrator, who would give his decision, but that decision would not be binding on either one side or the other, and the law could not enforce it. But, supposing that an Act of Parliament was passed making arbitration compulsory, it could now be enforced if the railway servants refused to accept the decision, a fine could be imposed on each one of them, and the society sued for the total amount. If, on the other hand, the railway companies refused to accept the decision, a fine could be imposed on each one of them, and their federation sued for the total amount; and it would work in just the same way if the dispute was in the iron trade, cotton or woollen, or any other great industry.

The lime hawk moth is a very pretty insect, and has an expanse of wings of nearly three inches. The anterior wings are of a rose grey colour, with large black patches of olive green in the centre and outer extremities, the latter being tipped with buff at the points of the wings. The hind wings are brighter than the anterior ones, being of a reddish grey margined with dull brown. The body of the insect is ash-coloured, and the thorax striped with olive green. The caterpillar appears towards the end of summer, and the perfect insect in the spring of the following year. It generally goes under ground for its metamorphosis, but oftentimes it is found in the chinks of bark of elm or lime trees, upon the leaves of which it naturally feeds.

They say it is "an ill wind that does not blow somebody good," and just as the great strike amongst the fishermen is injuring Grimsby so it is benefiting Billingsgate, for many trawlers which should unload at Grimsby are coming to the London wharves; and, as for Yarmouth (where I write this), the fishermen say it will do them a lot of good by raising the price of fish. Just as the great steel strike in America, if it continues, will benefit the iron and steel, as well as the tin-plate, trade of this country, for all that I don't like strikes, arbitration is the best thing always.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

In reply to many of my readers who have recently asked me the way to prepare an entomologist's bottle, I might say that the cyanide bottle is the best, or at all events the least trouble to use. A wide-mouthed bottle having a capacity of four or five ounces should be obtained, and about an ounce or a little more of pure cyanide of potassium put into it. This should be covered with a paste made of plaster of Paris, which, in its turn, when set, should be covered with some pieces of blotting-paper or cotton wool to absorb any moisture that might remain.

The bottle should then be closed with an airtight stopper either of glass or cork. A very short time in such a bottle will suffice to kill the insect. Others of my numerous correspondents have also asked me to repeat the instructions I gave last year as to the mode of feeding and keeping tortoises. These creatures, or at any rate the common land tortoises that are most usually kept, are essentially vegetable feeders, and a constant supply of fresh green stuff (cabbage, carrots, lettuce, etc.) is all that they require. If allowed to run at large in a vegetable garden they will need no attention, and will forage for themselves. In the winter months tortoises sleep, and on the approach of cold weather care should be taken that they are able to find a place wherein to hibernate. Those in the garden will look after themselves, and bury themselves in the ground, but those that are not so fortunate as to be at large should be put into a box of hay or straw, and kept in a warm place. The bread and milk diet that so often is given to tortoises is not a suitable food for them, and is only eaten out of sheer necessity.

It is said that the National Cyclists' Union intend to appeal to the International Committee, consisting of members of the English, Scotch, and Irish ruling bodies, against the amateur status of those two speedy Irish riders, Pease and Reynolds. The grounds for such appeal is, I am told, that it is obvious that the two riders in question have no other business in life for the present, at any rate, than riding at cycle race meetings, it is difficult to see how they can afford to do so. The same complaint has frequently been made against some of our speediest English riders, and in some instances it has been conclusively proved that riders have been paid by makers to ride their particular make of machine and by sports' promoters to appear at their meetings in order to draw a big "gate."

A correspondent of Lorrimore sq., S.E., has sent me the following letter:—"After being a resident in London for the past 25 years, and having neither seen nor, to my recollection, read of anything similar, it may interest you to know that this evening I discovered, with its head buried in a geranium blossom—no doubt dead—very fine specimen of the dragon-fly, which I managed to secure intact. It measures three inches in length, and from end to end of its two sets of wings three and seven-eighths inches. Its lace wings are beautifully tinted with yellow, and its body of dark brown brilliantly marked from end to end with bright blue. It has occurred to me that this

is rather a rare visitor so near town, and the particulars may not be altogether disinteresting to your readers."

As my correspondent states, dragon-flies are rarities in London, but their appearances in towns in all sorts of unlikely and unsuitable places have been recorded. The creature was probably resting on the geranium flower, and not feeding as is suggested, as the dragon-fly feeds entirely on other insects, and not upon the nectar of flowers. It is

JACK ALLROUND.

ALPINE TRAGEDY.
TO-MORROW'S PARLIAMENT

Warren Turez was drinking and Wasser Furioso—do the best way for heating the water or otherwise for drinking water, concerning which several correspondents have applied to me. I should like to decide, but give the following easily applied test which have been recommended:—Take one tablespoonful of a cheap solution of tannin into a tumblerful of the water you wish to test. If within five hours no gelatinous turbidity takes place the water may be considered wholesome and good. If, however, turbidity should show within the first hour the water is decidedly unwholesome, and if any turbidity shows within the second hour the water should be considered as very doubtful for either drinking or cooking purposes. **JACK TO FACE WITH BRAVE.**

At the Grand Staircase safety is reached. Up to that point the climber is perpetually face to face with death, hanging over the most difficult precipices, and looking down upon the cold, cruel glaciers in the abysmal depths below. The descent is always made roped. Only one climber moves at a time in the dangerous places, the others anchoring themselves as well as they can, which on a precipitous slope, often glazed with ice, is usually not very well. Close to the Col du Lion the accident occurred.

THE COTTAGE STORE.

What happened was thus described by Carrel, the guide:—"I was in front cutting steps with my ice axe. Second on the rope was Miss Bell, a girl aged 20. Then came Miss Trow, and after that Dr. Black. They were standing still. All of a sudden Miss Trow turned and said, 'What a view!' As she said this she seemed to lose her nerve and slipped. She dragged with her on the rope Dr. Black and then Miss Bell. All three went sliding down on the treacherous surface of the ice. I had just time to dig my ice axe into the ice as the rope tightened. It came on me with a terrific jerk and all but cut my body in two. I looked round and saw that we were all hanging over an abyss. For two minutes I kept my hold. You can judge how terrible the strain was, but it was to sheer life that I clung. Then at last my strength gave way. Instantly I was torn away and flung 60ft. in the air. I felt nothing more." The two unhappy souls who had slipped first fell.

FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE.

Dr. Black, of Pavilion Parade, Brighton, was well known as a local physician, and was youngest son of the late Mr. David Black, formerly town clerk of Brighton. He was 42. He was a man of considerable culture, and had a wide circle of friends. He left three weeks ago his holidays in Switzerland. Miss Bell, a charming girl of 20, is the daughter of Mr. Ed. Bell, of Messrs. George Bell and Sons, publishers. She was accompanied by her father, but he was not of the party, he delighting in sketching rather than climbing. Miss Bell, who would have been 21 in a few weeks time, possessed a capital physique, and was noted as a strong walker and excellent climber. It is exceedingly sad to know that Mrs. Bell, the mother who was in England, received the sad news just as she was on her way to buy a birthday present for her daughter.

ROPE BREAKS AND TWO TOURISTS PERISH.

The most terrible accident recorded in recent years upon the Matterhorn happened on Tuesday, when, through the breaking of the rope, two climbers—Dr. Black, of Brighton, and Miss Mildred Bell, of Hampton, lost their lives on the Italian side of the mountain. The descent of the Italian side—they were descending—is still both dangerous and difficult, though ropes and chains are fixed in the worst places. There are three stages in the descent—from the summit to the Italian club-hut from the Col du Lion, and from the Col du Lion to the Grand Staircase and the Breuil pastures.

At the Grand Staircase safety is reached. Up to that point the climber is perpetually face to face with death, hanging over the most difficult precipices, and looking down upon the cold, cruel glaciers in the abysmal depths below. The descent is always made roped. Only one climber moves at a time in the dangerous places, the others anchoring themselves as well as they can, which on a precipitous slope, often glazed with ice, is usually not very well. Close to the Col du Lion the accident occurred.

THE COTTAGE STORE.

What happened was thus described by Carrel, the guide:—"I was in front cutting steps with my ice axe. Second on the rope was Miss Bell, a girl aged 20. Then came Miss Trow, and after that Dr. Black. They were standing still. All of a sudden Miss Trow turned and said, 'What a view!' As she said this she seemed to lose her nerve and slipped. She dragged with her on the rope Dr. Black and then Miss Bell. All three went sliding down on the treacherous surface of the ice. I had just time to dig my ice axe into the ice as the rope tightened. It came on me with a terrific jerk and all but cut my body in two. I looked round and saw that we were all hanging over an abyss. For two minutes I kept my hold. You can judge how terrible the strain was, but it was to sheer life that I clung. Then at last my strength gave way. Instantly I was torn away and flung 60ft. in the air. I felt nothing more." The two unhappy souls who had slipped first fell.

WHAT HAPPENED WAS THIS DESCRIBED BY CARREL, THE GUIDE.

THE NEW GERMAN CUSTOMS TARIFF.

Berlin, July 27.—Paragraph 8 of the draft of the new Customs Tariff Law says:—"Goods liable to duty coming from countries which accord to German ships or German merchandise less favourable treatment than to those of other States may, besides the ordinary tariff rate, be subjected to an additional duty up to either double the ordinary tariff or to the amount of their full value. Goods of similar origin which are, according to the tariff, exempt from duty are liable to a duty not exceeding half the amount of their value. These provisions shall be enacted by Imperial decree after the consent of the Federal Council has been obtained. They shall be submitted to the Reichstag immediately, or should that body not be sitting, that at its next meeting. The regulations shall be null and void unless passed by the Reichstag."

CLEANING WHITE CORAL.—Have a saucer a good deal larger every day than the piece of coral, and obtain a cabbage net or a strong open piece of network. Fill the saucerpan with a good lathe of soapy water, then firmly take the net over the top of the boiler, letting it hang down loose enough into the water to allow the coral to be entirely well under water, and at the same time securing that there is a full inch or two of water in the boiler below where the lowest part of the coral can reach, so that there can be no danger that in the strain of the net or bubbling of the water the coral can touch the bottom, the same precaution must be taken to prevent its touching the sides of the boiler. The upper or best sides of the coral must be put face downwards. Set the boiler on the fire and let the saucers boil well, the movement will force the water into the little holes and crannies and so work out dust and dirt where no brush or feather could penetrate. When the water is over have ready a large basin or tub full of clean, warm water to cleanse out the soap. Hold the coral in your two hands and firmly but lightly dash it against the clean hot water again and again, forcing the water through every hole and crevice proceeding in the same way on every side till the coral is rinsed clear of soap. Those who do not care to trust their coral to the boiling process often successfully carry out the cleansing by having two large basins—the first containing soap suds, the other clear hot water—and accomplish their object by dashing the coral first against the suds and afterwards against the clear water. When the coral, after cleansing as above, remains a poor colour, it may be bleached by washing it well in diluted hydrochloric acid—one part of acid to 30 parts of water—then rinse well in clear water, after which let it lie for a time in a solution of chloride of lime and water, and, when whitened, rinse well in clean cold water and dry.

OPENING OF THE SOUTHEND KURSAAL.

During the past 10 years Southend has been very popular with the sea-loving Londoners. The short run of 36 miles and the cheap railway fare put it within the reach of the most modest purse. It has been notable up to now for possessing the longest pier in the world. A further and alluring attraction is now added in the shape of a magnificent Kurhaus, which was opened on Wednesday last by Lord Clarendon Hamilton. It is a beautiful concert hall and assembly rooms, constructed to hold 6,000 people, fitted with variety stage, the space assigned to it being a site of 125ft. by 80ft. The hall is to have a balconyoyer all round. At night the chairs will be

THE CITY SHOOTING CASE.

Robt. Douthwaite Thornton, 26, clerk, was indicted, at the Old Bailey, for felonious shooting at G. Gilmore, with intent to murder him, on July 8.—Mr. Geoghegan prosecuted.—Prosecutor said defendant ran away, but the witness pursued and caught him about 100 yards away. Defendant then called him and the girl "Harr." The defendant pleaded that he had been drinking, and that this was his first offence. He had a widowed mother and two young brothers to support. This prosecution, he said, would teach him a lesson.—Magistrate: You will be fined £3 and 2s. costs for this disgraceful and disgusting conduct, and in default a month's imprisonment.

OPENING OF THE SOUTHBEND KURSAAL.

During the past 10 years Southend has been very popular with the sea-loving Londoners. The short run of 36 miles and the cheap railway fare put it within the reach of the most modest purse. It has been notable up to now for possessing the longest pier in the world. A further and alluring attraction is now added in the shape of a magnificent Kurhaus, which was opened on Wednesday last by Lord Clarendon Hamilton. It is a beautiful concert hall and assembly rooms, constructed to hold 6,000 people, fitted with variety stage, the space assigned to it being a site of 125ft. by 80ft. The hall is to have a balconyoyer all round. At night the chairs will be

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.—Mr. Terrell, K.C., will stand.

KILMARNOCK BURGESS.—Mr. R. Rainey (R.), the defeated candidate at the General Election, will again stand.

A SCENE.

The late Dr. Tanner's estate has been entered at £1,225 12s. 5d.

As the result of an understanding arrived at between Mr. Balfour and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, the proportion of Parliament is expected to take place during the week ending Aug. 17.

THE THAMES SWAN "UPPING."

The annual swan "upping" voyage, for the purpose of nicking or marking the birds belonging to the King and the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies was concluded yesterday, a record having been made of the swans and cygnets on the Thames between Southwark Bridge and Henley.

DEATH OF MR. S. POPE, K.C.

Mr. Samuel Pope, K.C., has died at Ashby-gardens, Victoria-st., S.W. this week. He was leader of the Parliamentary Bar. Mr. Pope was the oldest practising member of the Bar, having been born in 1822. He was Recorder of Bolton in 1859. Mr. Pope's death was painlessly sudden, although it was a contingency which he and his friends well knew to be one which they could not disregard, seeing that he had long suffered from valvular disease of the heart.

SIR BALFOUR'S BIRTHDAY.

Let me mention (says the Lobby correspondent of "The Manchester Guardian") the pretty moment when Mr. Johnston, having to ask the first question of the day, addressed to Mr. Balfour, congratulated him on his birthday. Such a cheer burst from Tories, Liberal Unionists, Liberals of every shade, and from Nationalists (Mr. Swift MacNeill), who has never forgotten that Mr. Balfour called him "a great constitutional authority," shouting with the best, indeed, from every throat, that Mr. Balfour must have known his "immense popularity when he never knew it before. Then Mr. Balfour rose, blushed and said as a gasp, and saved his embarrassment with a graceful evasion of which the tone and modesty were all his own."

"The boar, gentleman will remember," he said, "that the standing orders permit me only to reply to the matters on the paper." **ACTION AGAINST THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER.**

According to existing arrangements for the trial of special jury actions, it is stated that the breach of promise suit of Miss Knight against the Duke of Manchester will not come on during the present sittings. The trial is now likely to take place towards the close of the year.

MORELLA CHERRY BRANDY.—Having cut off half the stalks of some large Morella cherries, put them greatly into, and three-quarters fill with them, a wide-mouthed glass bottle that holds one quart. Add four ounces white sugar-candy, finely powdered; fill close up with the best brandy, adding one clove, two drachms dried Seville orange peel, and one drachm cinnamon. The three last ingredients to be taken out in 14 days—then fill up the vacant space with brandy and cork, carefully.

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THE STAGE.

COVENT GARDEN OPERA

"DON GIOVANNI."

To-morrow night will see the close of an opera season, the most interesting event of whose last week was undoubtedly the performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni," interesting if for nothing else than the comparative novelty of the thing, for although one would imagine there are hundreds of opera-goers only too delighted to renew acquaintance with one of the finest works ever written, a performance of the great opera is reserved for the fag-end of the season. Such a delay is one of those things it is difficult to understand. It seems to be the now-unwritten law that in the earlier weeks there must be a plethora of Wagner, and then at the end certain long-promised promises may result in performances at the hands of more or less scratch casts. However, this little pramble is by the way, and is provoked as much by the all-round excellence of the representation as by anything else, for in listening to the rendering one could not but regret that the opportunity of hearing Mozart again cannot by any possibility come round for another year.

As we have indicated, although the company was in the nature of a scratch one (the voice of the prompter was loud on the stage, and rehearsal had evidently been a negligible quantity), there was throughout such a fine level of merit as to make the performance an enjoyable one. Of course, it may be argued that the level of merit should have been high instead of fair, but that must pass. It was a case of being thankful for mercies of modified size, and what about the Don? Well, Signor Scotti is an earnest and capable artist, but he lacks the grand manner. His Don was more minister than seductive. He seemed able to bully Donna Elvira with more conviction than he woed Zerlina, although it must be said that in the ball scene his acting made the exit and the subsequent rumpus particularly plausible. Signor Scotti does not use the volume of his voice as he might do, and vocal colour is everything when a man has to make love of the ardent, compelling type, with his singing voice. If the rendering of the serenade could not efface the memories of Maud in the part, it was in itself excellent, and the audience insisted on a repetition.

Concerning the rest of the singers, we are inclined to give first place to the Leporelo of M. Larandon. It was, so far as we remember, his first attempt in the character at Covent Garden, and while here again the soprano had ample reminiscences to draw upon, M. Larandon evoked admiration for his very informed rendering. He was the true servant of his master; ready to help in his unhappy amour, and at the same time on the alert to take advantage of a situation to his own satisfaction. His acting when the statue of the Commandatore appeared at the banquet was especially to be noted. The Donna Anna of Middle-Paquet lacked nothing of dramatic significance, but the music obviously lay outside the range of her voice. Madame Sombrino was a colouratura Divina Elvira, and M. Salignac did all that was possible with the insignificant character of Don Ottavio. No artist seems able to give life or distinction to a part so unrelieved by any touch of distinction. Madame Susanna Adams, whose opportunities this season have been so many that she must be counted fortunate indeed, was an attractive Zerlina—vocally, quite charming, but lacking the requisite sprightliness and vivacity. M. Journet was once again an impressive Commandatore, and M. Gilbert repeated, as Mastrotto, a performance which in former years has gained him warm encomiums. Mancinelli conducted admirably.

SUBURBAN THEATRES.

The attraction at the Grand, Islington, next week, is "True to the Queen." In this domestic military drama Whimsical Walker, from Drury Lane Theatre, will make his first appearance as Trooper Kennedy.

At the Shakespeare Theatre, on Aug. 5, will be presented a new farcical comedy, entitled "Smith, Brown, Jones, and Robinson," written by Harry and Edward Paulson. Miss Gladys Hordry will return to farce, and play the part of Eulalia St. Simpkins, the beloved of the quartette title role, which will be respectively represented by William Wye, Harry Paulson, Compton Coutts, and John Beauchamp. The play will be produced by Mr. Fred Winn.

Interest of the Not-to-the-weather has been entirely taken up by the securing of anything like large attendances. The Princess of Wales' (Kennington) has of late been particularly fortunate. With a record of nearly 1,000 performances, "Why Smith Left Home" last week drew capital houses, and the company, including Mr. H. Langard, Mr. M. Langdale, and Miss Kate Kasey, presenting the highly successful comedy are to be complimented on the excellent manner of their performances. This week "White Heather" is the attraction.

Other fixtures are:—Terris (Rotherhithe), "The Prodigious Parson"; Surrey, "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; Britannia, "True as Steel"; Standard, "The King of Crime"; Pavilion, "The Golden Prospect"; Elephant and Castle, "How London Lives"; Lyric (Hammersmith), "A Fatal Crown"; West London, "Through the World"; Borough (Stratford); Trip to Chicago"; Royal (Stratford); Jacko, Shakespeare (Clapham Junction); When London Sleeps"; Crown (Pocham), "A Woman of Pleasure"; and Woolwich Grand, "Two Little Heroes."

PAVILION.

There is a good deal to be said in favour of the historical drama, as of the historical novel, as they stand mixed with the drama of the other there is a sufficiency of history served up with due regard to documentary accuracy. In such circumstances historical doings are often forced upon the mind with a certainty which no amount of book-reading is as likely to ensure. For this reason we welcome the historical play, more particularly in our local theatres, and we can give hearty acceptance to the drama, "A Fatal Crown," by Brandon Ellis and James Bell which has just seen the footlights in the Mile End rd. Like a good many other plays, it will be all the better for a little pruning, but the story of the ill-fated Lady Jane Grey is told with sufficient exactitude and with no lack of strength and attractiveness as to make it highly acceptable. In such a production, of course, the scenic accessories play an important part, and those for "A Fatal Crown" leave little to be desired, albeit the scenes are so numerous as to tax the powers of the painter and the machinist to a very considerable extent. One of the most striking

pictures is that of the trial of Lady Jane Grey in the Privy Council Chamber, a scene which abounds in colour, grouping, and lighting, is a triumph in its way. The play, which ends with a tableau showing Lady Jane at the gruesome block, is necessarily to a large extent sad and tragic, but it has its moments of relief, and there are some stirring interludes. Miss Annie Bell gave a fine reading of the central character, and Miss Edith Wallis was also admirable as Queen Mary. The Lord Dudley of Mr. John Davidson was a splendid performance, and the rest of the company did full justice to a really fine play.

TIME ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Melodrama, anyway in the subure, is considered a safe card to play. The latest dramatic necklace of sensational situations, entitled "From Shadow to Sunshine," is not one whit behind its predecessors in improbabilities and its own awfully thorough villain, rejoicing in the name of Jonas Crabwell. He starts in workmanlike fashion by shooting Mrs. Chester, and promptly accusing her husband, who is most conveniently cleaning his gun barrel at the critical moment. Then we find him in the "Garden of Sleep," where he has the temerity to attempt to place a wreath of flowers on his victim's grave, but is thwarted by a lady named Magdalene, whose name alone suggests her relations with Jones Crabwell. Later on Mrs. Chester, close on the witching hour, awakes in the loneliness of the family vault (she suffers from trances), and calls upon John Hargreaves, a very plausible second villain, to rescue her, which he promptly does. Then we are taken to the condemned cell, where the hero learns through a blind rector that his wife is alive, and also that she is shut in a particularly dangerous room, No. 14 at the chemical factory. He is driven frantic as being unable to rescue her, and finally breaks out of prison with the assistance of the chief low comedian. He eventually rescues Magdalene, who has taken Mrs. Chester's place. We are then led up by a series of thrilling scenes to the denunciation of the very vindictive villain, who is "blasted" out of this world in a quarry scene, a very effective act painted by Mr. Hargreaves. As John Chester, Mr. Frank Lester gives a fine display of the dramatic force, whilst Mr. Stephen T. Evans does full justice to the character of Jonas Crabwell. In fact, this little affective performance displayed a nerve force which is sure to bring great advantage at some future time. Miss Esmeralda Dean made a charming and interesting Magdalene, and Mildred Carter was well sustained by Miss Octavia Knott.

The comedy portion, perhaps the weakest part of the play, was a matter of quality wrung out of it by Mr. Mailland Marier, Miss Nellie Marier, and Mr. H. Agar Lyons. There is a possibility of the play being made a very excellent one if wisely and expertly pruned. There were loud calls for the author, and a funny situation was created by the manager saying he was on his way to the railway station, whilst Mr. Franks was at that moment bowing his acknowledgments from a private box.

DRAMATIC & MUSICAL GOSSIP.

"Sweet and Twenty" will reach its 100th performance on Monday at the Vaudeville. The Pennsylvania crew witnessed "The Night of the Party" at the Avenue Theatre on Wednesday, as the guests of Mr. W. W. Grossmith.

The new dramatic version of "Eugene Aram," written by Messrs. Freeman Willis and F. Langbridge for Mr. Martin Harvey, will be primarily produced by him while on tour at Dublin.

A new play by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, founded by him upon one of his "Jungle Stories," and called "The Jungle Play," is to be brought out at a West End theatre about Christmas time.

Mr. Landron Ronald is to conduct the classical orchestral concerts to be given at Blackpool Winter Gardens during August and September. Madame Melba, Mme. Albani, and Mr. Ben Davis have already been engaged.

Monday next will be a gala night at the Savoy Theatre, the management having invited the Irish Guards to witness the performance of "The Emerald Isle." Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men will be present in force.

Terry's Theatre will re-open on Aug. 19, with the adaptation from the French by Mr. Augustus Moore, entitled "The Giddy Goat," to be produced by Mr. York Stephens. The piece will be played for a few nights by way of a preliminary curtain at Weymouth.

"Shock Holmes," who figures as the chief personage in the play with which Mr. Gillies as Dr. Constance Doyle, re-opens the Lyceum on September, will be reproduced in the usher in a story entitled "The Hound of the Baskervilles," to appear in the August number of "The Strand Magazine."

Four nations were represented at the dinner given on Tuesday evening last at the Criterion by Mons. G. M. de Saint-Leger to Mdlle. Corinne de Briou. The host presided, and in a few well-chosen words expressed the opinion of the French on dramatic art, and welcomed the forthcoming debut of Mdlle. Corinne in London.

The comedy that Mr. R. C. Carton has written on commission to the play with which Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Arthur Bourchier is in four acts, and is quite modern. The two leading parts will be sustained by Mr. Bourchier and Miss Compton, the latter of whom will essay a different type of character from any in which she has been seen during recent years. Other important engagements include Messrs. Eric Lewis, Ernest Hendrie, and Arthur Williams, while a strongly-drawn character part will be in the hands of Miss Violet Vanbrugh.

Though, owing to the war, followed by the death of the great Queen, London managers have experienced the minimising of the past would have but a poor time of it. The parrots, cockatoos, and macaws which are now going through their tricks at the Empress (Brixton) are a case in point. Their owner, Mr. Charles Judge, has trained them, as most people know, to do most remarkable things, and their "turn" is highly acceptable. Leo Tell, who is also appearing at the same hall, is a farm-yard in himself, for his imitations are quite life-like. He lays both animals and birds under contribution, and can reproduce the sounds of musical instruments with equal facility.

An addition has been made to the attractions at the Hippodrome, by the engagement of Fosset and Chocolat, two very amusing clowns who come from the Nouveau Cirque, Paris. Clowns is one of the most difficult of things, especially in these black times, when even the children take a deal of amusing, but the two Frenchmen, equipped with all necessary alertness and circus business, succeed where many fail. The new jockey performance by Herr Althoff and the fine demonstration of the "haute ecus" by Mdme. Rose constitute notable features of the circus proper.

Gatti's (Westminster) is particularly strong just now in lady performers, who

are frequent visitors to the Lyceum, where the "exquisite" in question being Count D'Orsay.

With the great majority of the West-end playhouses closed, the current interest in the drama is centred in the late summer and early autumn production, to be opened on their re-opening, Aug. and Sept., which used to present blank bills and closed doors, promise, this year, despite the lull of the past season, to give lively interest in respect of the number of performances. The prospect to the coming performances will be open on Monday at the Court, to which Mr. Somersett, after a prolonged provincial tour with the piece, "The Servants of Satan." Though only for a fortnight's continuance, the venture is a bold one, in view of the lukewarm reception of the adaptation of Miss Corelli's gloomy story on its first production in London years ago. Aug. 10 will bring with it the presentation of the Strand of the play formerly entitled "The Noble Art," but now renamed "The Talk of the Town." On Aug. 19 Terry's re-opened starts anew with "The Giddy Goat." Aug. 21 is the date assigned for the most interesting of the forthcoming events, the start in management of Mr. Herbert Waring for a four months' season at the Imperial Theatre, with a new modern military play. The following evening, Aug. 22, "Becky Sharp," with Miss Marie Tempest as Thackeray's famous adventuress, is to be brought out at the Prince of Wales', whence "The Man from Blankney's" will before then have been carried to another playhouse. On Aug. 24 Mr. Lewis Waller, then disassociated in management from Mr. Mottram, intends to appear again at the Duke of York's in "A Royal Rival" as Don Cesare de Basan.

MUSIC HALLS.

THE METROPOLITAN.

Mr. Henri Gros is no cheapskate in the way of a variety entertainment. His programme is always of a first-class quality, and his able and experienced manager, Mr. Jack Edgar, is always keeping a weather eye open for a young comedian of fresh style making headway in the profession, and one can but predict an excellent future for him. Gros is sure to bring great advantage at some future time. Miss Esmeralda Dean made a charming and interesting Magdalene, and Mildred Carter was well sustained by Miss Octavia Knott.

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TALK OF THE PEOPLE.

CHINA.

THE INDEMNITY NEGOTIATIONS.

To be quite frank, I do not think the compromise between the two front benches over the Agricultural Rating Bill is entirely creditable either to the Government, the Opposition, or the House of Commons. The temporary interests which it was proposed to make permanent, and which is now only to be renewed for four years, has been in operation quite long enough to act as a test, and the Government were fully satisfied that it ought to be made permanent. They ought, in my judgment, in such circumstances to have stuck to their guns, and have refused to compromise at all. Four years hence, when it is to come up again, there may be a much stronger Opposition, and they may have the greatest difficulty in placing it upon the Statute Book.

On the other hand, the Opposition came over out of the business. They have been declaring that the bill was a "bribe," a "dole," and I know not what; that it violated all sound finance, and was contrary to the whole spirit of the British Constitution. Yet they are willing to allow it to be renewed for four years merely because they hope that, at the end of that time they may be able to make things a little more unattractive for the Government. As for the House of Commons, one cannot help saying that its acquiescence in the deal savours a great deal too much of a readiness to scamp its work, provided only it may be allowed to get away for its holidays at the usual time. Nobody seems to remember that the heavens would not even if Parliament was not "up" by Aug. 17.

When the History of England comes to be written by Macaulay's New Zealander, who will no doubt approach the subject in an impartial spirit, he will probably refer at length to a gallant race of men inhabiting the moonland part of the island as having had more influence upon legislation than any other cause whatsoever. He will be right. It is the group which makes it impossible to keep legislators in town, and so causes the endless complications involved by the fact that the House must rise somewhere about August 12. It is a curious, but indispensible fact, that the two causes which have chiefly governed the legislation of the Imperial Parliament this year are, first, the date on which grouse-shooting opens; and, secondly, the fact that one man has had the gout.

The latter fact, by the way, is a serious one, for the removal of the Chairman of Committees' illness makes it very difficult for the Government to get on with Supply. Nobody but Mr. Lowther can apply the Closure in Committee, and there is no obstruction to barres that cannot furnish talk for interminable hours on Supply. The end of it will be that all the last hours of the session will be occupied in nothing else but marching in and out of the division lobbies. There will be no argument, no discussion of even the most important votes—nothing but 1 or 18 hours of marching and counter-marching, just as though the House of Commons was chasing De Wet.

And this brings me to the proposal that some other means should be found of recording members' votes than the antiquated process they now go through. Each division takes on an average about 17 minutes, and it should surely not be impossible to devise some arrangement which could be at least as accurate, and yet not occupy half the time. I am glad to see that Mr. Balfour has consented to an inquiry into the means employed in other assemblies. There are many systems, and nearly all of them are better than ours.

It is singular at first sight to find the Leader of the House lamenting the weakness of the Opposition, but no one feels more acutely every day than Mr. Balfour how great an evil that weakness is. There is no consistent criticism of the policy of the Government, of which Ministers can benefit, and there is nothing to keep up the keenness of their followers. A more languid Parliament than this I have never seen, and the condition is entirely due to the hopeless state of the Opposition. Supposing the Government was to be turned out to-morrow, there is not even an alternative Administration to take their place, and that is a state of things which has never been known in English politics before.

The very sensible suggestion has been made that the Ladies Committee who are to investigate the condition of the concentration camps in South Africa should first make themselves acquainted with the actual life of the Boer women when they are on their own farms. If they do they will discover that life in the concentration camps is simply a dream of cleanliness compared with life on the veldt, and will probably report that the first step towards civilising the new territories should be to compel every Boer woman to pass through a short period of instruction in one of these much-abused camps.

The suggestion made for the King's title seems to please almost everyone, and I suppose it will be adopted. The colonies would not have liked him to be described as their Emperor, since that would have seemed to mark them off in some way from his subjects at home, and it would be impossible to put the names of all the colonies into the Royal title without making it absurdly long. "All British Dominions beyond the Seas" seems to me exactly to meet the case. It is simple and dignified, and yet it perfectly expresses what we want to say.

DIAMOND SYNDICATE RESEARCHES.

New York, July 27.—Advices from Kingston, Jamaica, report that the De Beers Syndicate's mission has concluded prospecting the diamond districts in British Guiana, and has proceeded to prosecute its search in Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. The syndicate's report will present the most complete survey of the diamond fields in South America, and will contain some startling information on the projects of the syndicate.—Central News.

DROWNING FATALITY.

A youth named Leonard Moore, son of a Shrewsbury hairdresser, was drowned in the Severn last evening under distressing circumstances. He had just completed a new punt, and went to the Severn with another lad to launch it. Both got in, but the second boy, alarmed, jumped out again. Moore crossed the river, which was in flood, and, in returning, the punt capsized, and he was drowned.

NEW DUTCH MINISTRY.

Amsterdam, July 27.—The new Cabinet has been constituted. Dr. Kuyper becomes Chief of the Cabinet and Minister of the Interior; M. de Marey Oeyen, Minister of the Waterways and of Foreign Affairs; M. Melvil, chief of the High Court of Justice at the Hague; Vice-admiral Kruse, Marine Minister; Gen. Bertrand, War Minister; M. Harts van Peckelenburg, Finance Minister; and Ach van Wyk, Minister for the Colonies.—Central News.

The arrangements made by the National Sunday League for August Bank Holiday include trips to Paris and Brussels.

The North London Hospital for Consumption has received a gift of some £100,000 with which to build and endow a country branch.

The Earl of Dunraven is to be appointed to command the 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, whose formation has just been approved by the King.

LATEST ELECTRIC FLASHES.

HOME.

A great Primrose League demonstration was held near Coalville. In Blackburn and the neighbourhood factory hands are spending some 200,000 on their holidays. The Bishop of Durham is reported to be getting better, but his condition is still critical.

Leeds tramway men ask the Corporation to meet them in order to avoid a strike.

The Edinburgh University summer graduation ceremony took place, when degrees were conferred.

Mr. H. Gladstone, M.P., opened a new house at Roundhay, near Leeds.

Joe. Fred. Bradshaw was sentenced to three months for stealing a shirt from a line.

At Cessett Hannah Smale, of Dibden, was remanded, charged with the murder of her illegitimate child.

Mary Jane Sword was fined £2 at Castle Eden for selling drink without a license.

Walter Gillott, charged at Shoreditch with stealing a purse from John Lewis, was sentenced to a month.

The body of a well-dressed man was found in Birmingham Canal at Oldbury, Rowley Regis.

Leonard More, son of a Shrewsbury tradesman, was drowned in the Severn near the town while boating.

An inmate of Stafford County Lunatic Asylum attacked a fellow patient with a broom, inflicting injuries which caused death.

Wesleyans in conference at Newcastle attribute a falling-off in Sunday School attendance to the prevalence of Sunday sports.

A woman named Furber died as the result of injuries sustained through falling whilst cleaning windows at Gooch.

The wife of Roger Derbyshire, a Salford bricklayer's labourer, gave birth to three children, two boys and a girl.

An inquest at Burton on T. Jas. Barber, quarryman, who died from injuries caused by a fall of rock, was adjourned.

Fishing in the Severn near Worcester, some men found in their net the body of a man, believed, from the articles in his clothing, to be C. Holden, of Birmingham.

At the County Lunatic Asylum, Stafford, an inmate named Potts struck another, named Ed. Varie, such a terrible blow on the head, that he died soon after.

Lady Emma Crichton unveiled a memorial fountain at Southampton to Mary Ann Rogers, the stewardess who sacrificed her life to rescue passengers when the s.s. Stella founder'd of the Cunard in 1898.

Mr. Adams, Jno. Adams, Evan Jones, Enoch Morgan, Edgar Ford, Thos. Phillips, Arthur Jones, and Wm. Green, colliers, charged with assaulting Margaret Jones at Blackwood (Mon.), were each fined £2 or two months.

FOREIGN.

Sigmar Crisp's condition continues serious.—Reuter.

The Special Moorsish Embassy for St. Petersburg will present 10 horses to the Czar.—Reuter.

The improvement in Count Leo Tolstoi's health is fully maintained.—Reuter.

Prof. Constantin Crotius, the well-known German painter, has died at Berlin, aged 87.—Reuter.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered 100,000 dollars for a Public Library at Winnipeg.—Reuter.

The Constitution, which damaged her plates on a rock this week, has gone to Bristol (R.I.) to be overhauled and examined.—Reuter.

The stallion Crossus trotted at Cleveland, U.S.A., one mile in 2 min. 36 sec., creating a world's record.—Reuter.

The U.S. battleship Maine was launched at Philadelphia yesterday. The new vessel has a displacement of 12,500 tons.—Reuter.

The French Parliamentary Commission appointed to examine foreign coinage systems left Cherbourg yesterday for Plymouth.—Reuter.

The Italian liner "North America" has arrived from Naples, making the voyage in 12 days, 16 hours—a record time.—Central News.

Preparations have been begun for the despatch of a joint contingent from the British possessions in the West Indian Islands to the coronation of King Edward VII.—Reuter.

Nothing is known regarding the fate of the Spanish woman and child who were recently seized by the Moors and carried into the interior of Africa.—Reuter.

Mr. Shaffer, the labour leader, describes as baseless the reports regarding an approaching conference with a view to a settlement of the U.S. steel strike.—Reuter.

At Providence, U.S., on Friday, W. Stinson, the bicyclist, did a motor-paced mile over a six lap track in 1 min. 24 1/2 sec., breaking the world's record for such a track.—Reuter.

BAKERS AND SUNDAY LABOUR

Nine Jewish master bakers were prosecuted at the Thames Court, at the instance of the Amalgamated Society of Bakers, for causing bread to be baked, sold, or delivered on Sunday, contrary to the London Bread Act, 1822. The case against two defendants was dismissed. In two cases defendants were fined 10s. and 12s. costs, as for a first offence. In another case, where the offence was the second committed, defendant was fined 20s. and costs.—In the sixth case an important point of law arose. Defendant in this case was charged for the second time with "baking and making" bread, but not with selling it on a Sunday. Mr. Mead thought that merely

BAKING AND MAKING.

Without sale, constituted a trifling offence, which the Summary Jurisdiction Act enabled him to deal with leniently, and without regard to the penalty provided for a second offence in the Bread Act.—Mr. Edwards, who prosecuted, contended that such option applied merely to a first offence, and that upon a second offence being proved the statutory penalty must be imposed.—Mr. Mead stated that this was so, but that there was no obligation upon him to receive proof of a first offence. Upon this point Mr. Edwards agreed for the case to be stated. Pending the result the other cases were adjourned.

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MARRIED MISERY.

At N. London, Henry Undell, 40, labourer of Kenton, Hackney, was charged before Mr. Fordham, with assaulting his wife, Martha, by striking her in the left eye with his fist at Mars-st. — The woman said her husband came up behind her and struck her twice—once a dreadful blow in the left eye, which was now closed, and she could not see out of it. He had not struck her for several years, but they frequently disagreed. They had four young children.—Mr. Fordham said it was a shocking assault, and before he passed sentence he should see if the eye was permanently injured.

AN ANGRY HUSBAND.

Henry Nash, 26, bottle-washer, of Leonard's-p-l, Almond-st., Stoke Newington, surrendered to his bail before the court.

Joe. Fred. Bradshaw was sentenced to three months for stealing a shirt from a line.

At Cessett Hannah Smale, of Dibden, was remanded, charged with the murder of her illegitimate child.

Mary Jane Sword was fined £2 at Castle Eden for selling drink without a license.

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THIS CELEBRATED MANUFACTURE
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It is Only Used by Tens of Thousands with
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ALWAYS ON HAVING BORWICK'S.

NEAVE'S FOOD.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED WOMAN'S
EXHIBITION, LONDON 1892.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

In London 2,519 births and 1,611 deaths were registered last week. The births were 62 and the deaths 216 below the average. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes rose again last week to 16.2. The 1,611 deaths included 45 from measles, 30 from diphtheria, and 140 from diarrhoea and dysentery. Different forms of violence caused 72 deaths, concerning all but nine of which inquests were held. Of these 72 deaths 10 were cases of suicide and two of homicide, while the remaining 50 were attributed to accident or negligence.

Nine of these were referred to vehicles in the streets, nine to drowning, 10 to asphyxia, one to the effects of chloroform administered for surgical purposes, and six to suffocation in bed.

In Greater London 3,797 births and 1,876 deaths were registered, corresponding to annual rates of 23.3 and 11.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The deaths registered last week corresponded to an annual rate of 17.9 per 1,000 of the aggregate population of the towns, which is estimated at 11,463,028 persons in the middle of this year.

Britain's daily cup of tea consumes 600,000 lbs. of the leaf. Mosquito is derived from the Spanish "mosca," and means "little fly."

Lady clerks in post-offices must be 5 ft. six in height.

Seven thousand in every million British people have incomes of over £200 a year.

Banking is increasing three times as fast as commerce, and 30 as population.

British railways killed 534 railway men and injured 16,533 during last year.

Russia's timber brings her 22 million a year, out of a total of 24 millions for all Europe.

Six thousand and fifty-three lives were lost at work last year in these islands. Of these 3,500 were sailors.

The Laplanders are the shortest people in Europe, men averaging 5 ft. 5 in., women 5 ft. 2 in.

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Germany, Great Britain, and the United States consume together only 12th as much wine as France.

English people use 25 lb. a head a year of wheat and flour, 16 of bacon, 9 of butter, 40 of eggs, and 85 of sugar.

In Australia spring begins Aug. 20, summer Nov. 20, autumn Feb. 20, and winter May 20.

One-fourth of the world's salt, and more than half of its tin, are produced by the British Empire.

From a cliff 1,000 ft. high—a person with clear vision can see a ship at a distance of 2 miles.

For the last 10 years there has been an increase of 2,000 annually in the number of Great Britain's insures.

Between 1850 and 1870 British railways increased 510 miles a year. The present yearly increase is 301 miles a year.

A sum of £30,000 has now been received at the Marconi House in aid of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund.

Only one country brews more beer per inhabitant than England. That is Belgium, with 31 gallons a head, as compared with 22 gallons in this country.

Denmark leads the world in agriculture. Each inhabitant has on an average a capital of £137 invested in farming. English people have only £25 a head.

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Italy only brews 7-10ths of a gallon a head of beer in the year, the least of any large country in Europe. Russia's production is about 1-10th of a gallon a head greater.

One newspaper is at present using 15,500 tons of paper a year. One thousand people are employed in making it, and they use five acres of timber a day for the purpose.

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More books are written on theological subjects than on anything else. In one year, 708 were published in the United Kingdom; next came classic, 507; and third, fiction, 380.

The yellow-and-red Swallow flag is the oldest now in use by any European Power, yet it was not flown till 1785. The French tricolour came into use 10 years later, and our red ensign in 1801.

Italy and Spain have fewer houses in proportion to their population than any other country in the world; the Argentine Republic and Uruguay have most.

Although a Scotchman's brain weighs only 5 lbs. on an average, and Esquimaux's only 4.3 lbs., yet, taking the difference in size of body into consideration, the Esquimaux's is as heavy.

Russian girls have a peculiar way of fearing their matrimonial prospects. A number of girls take off their rings and conceal them in a shallow basket of corn; partake of the corn, and the owner of the first ring uncovered will be the first to enter matrimony.

When you engage a servant or make a bargain in China it is not considered binding until "the fastening of the penney" has been paid. Although his bad faith is notorious in some matters, yet, to do him justice, when once this coin has been paid by you the Chinaman, coolie, or shopman, will generally stick to his bargain, even if the result to him be loss.

A farm near Headhouse, in Yorkshire, pays annually to the landlord a shillings in midsummer and a red rose at Christmas. The manor of Boston is held by a rental of two acres and a loaf of bread. An estate in the north of England is held by the exhibition before a court every seven years of a certain vase owned by the family; another, in Suffolk, by an annual rental of two white doves.

There are believed to be 16 tons of shells to every cubic mile of ocean.

Eighty British ships and 385 lives were lost at sea in April.

The Swedish mile is the longest in the world—11,700 yards.

A record pace-log, 94 ft. long, 19 ft. square, and perfectly straight, was recently landed at Leith.

In March of this year there were only 230 temple mills running in Wales, against 418 a year ago.

Houses represent £26 in every £100 of British capital, land £20, furniture £13, and railways £9.

The rare element helium has been found in the Bath hot springs. It cost £200 per cubic foot to collect.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer receives on an average £5,100 a year as conscience money for unpaid taxes.

The Royal Park, in Copenhagen, 4,200 acres in extent, is said to be the largest enclosure for deer.

Married couples in Norway are privileged to travel on railways at a fare and a half.

The longest recorded hair growing on a female head was 8 ft. The longest beard ever worn by a man was 12 ft.

In Nuremberg there is a famous restaurant which was founded 800 years ago.

The bones of an average human male skeleton weigh 20 lbs.; those of a woman are 6 lbs. lighter.

Eight per cent. of sovereigns, but only 1 per cent. of half-sovereigns, now in circulation are over 40 years old.

The whole British Empire has only 124 Protestant bishops, of whom 32 are English, seven Irish, 12 Scotch, and 73 Colonial.

Norwegian shipping comes first of foreign nations in British ports. She sinks six million tons a year, against four million from Germans.

Lady clerks in post-offices must be 5 ft. six in height.

Seven thousand in every million British people have incomes of over £200 a year.

Banking is increasing three times as fast as commerce, and 30 as population.

British railways killed 534 railway men and injured 16,533 during last year.

Russia's timber brings her 22 million a year, out of a total of 24 millions for all Europe.

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